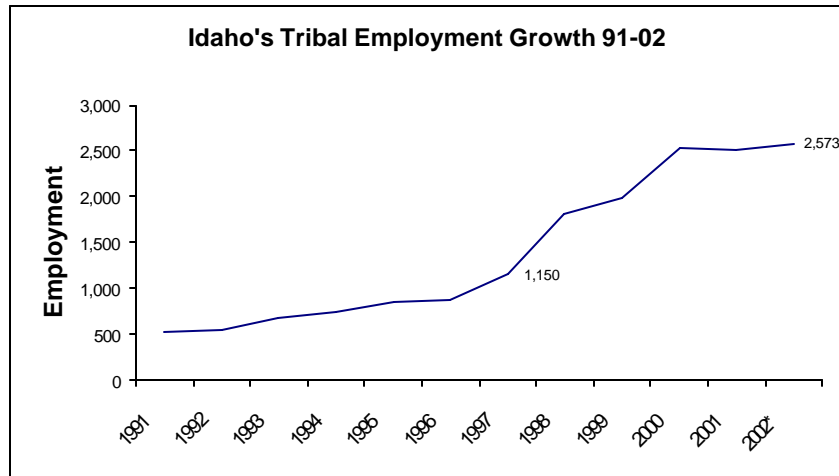


# Idaho's Tribal Economics

Bill Parks, Research and Analysis Supervisor  
Idaho Department of Labor

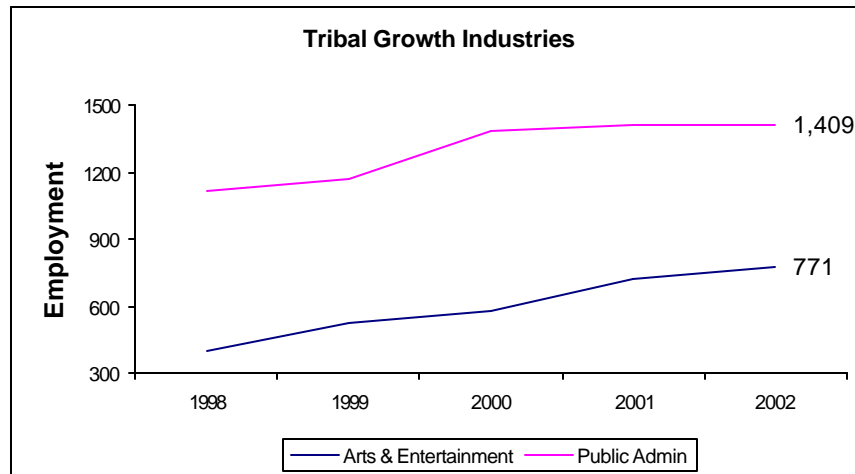
One of the fastest growing sectors in Idaho's economy over the last five years has been in tribal employment. Although Idaho has seen steady growth over the last 10 years in tribal employment, growth really kicked off between 1996 and 1998 (see graph 1) when employment jumped from 881 to 1,150, more than doubling.

Graph 1:



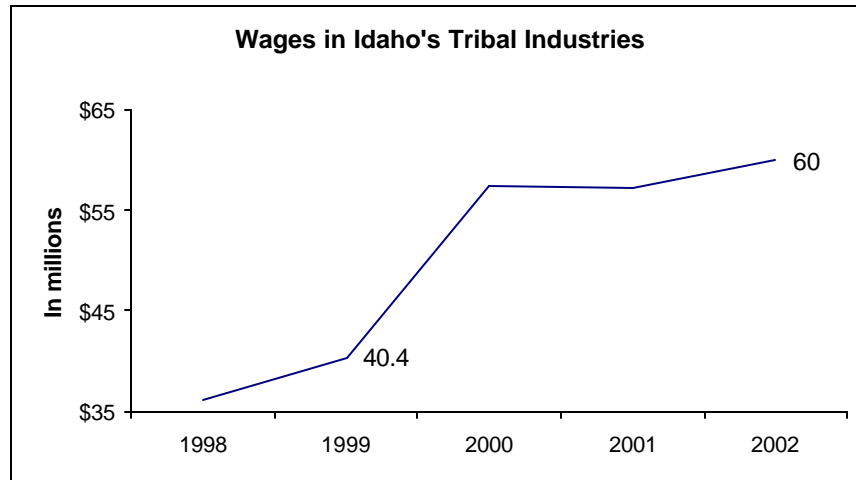
Although tribal employment is found in several industries, most of this growth can be attributed to two industries. The *Arts and Entertainment* industry and Public Administration are the strong performers in the tribal economy. The *Arts and Entertainment* industry has seen employment nearly double since 1998, which is largely attributed to casino expansion. Public Administration, which consists of the governing bodies within the tribal community, has also experienced strong growth during the same time frame (See graph 2).

Graph 2:

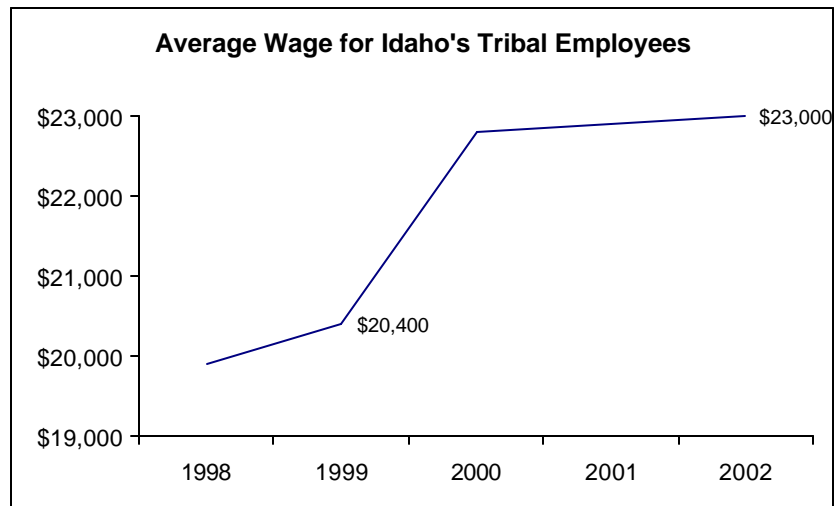


With this growth in casino employment and public administration came an increase in wages paid to employees. During the period between 1998 and 2002\* wages increased by 23.8 million dollars (see graph 3) and the average wage per employee rose from \$19,900 to \$23,000, an increase of 16 percent (see graph 4).

Graph 3:



Graph 4:



Although the number of employees that make up the tribal economy is small relative to the state of Idaho economy, the employment growth and average wage increase of the last several years provides promise for the future of Idaho's tribal economic outlook.

\* 2002 data is estimated based on preliminary information